



REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-3, 6, and 7 have been provisionally elected. Claim 1 is independent.

Entry of the Amendment is Proper

Claim 1 has been amended to address an apparent misunderstanding of present invention with respect to a claimed element. Thus, the amendment should be entered because it at least places the application in better form for appeal.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, written description

Claims 1-3, 6, and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In particular, the Office Action alleges that the added language “to perform white display, a flat surface of the first substrate linearly polarizes reflected light in arbitrary directions in a visible wavelength range” was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors had possession of the claimed invention. The Office Action further states that there is not indication from the specification that this substrate linearly polarizes reflected light in arbitrary directions, as it appears that the substrate merely reflects light.

Applicants submit that the Office Action misinterprets the claimed invention and that the added language is supported in the specification at page

43, first full paragraph. In order to clarify the claim in light of the apparent misunderstanding, Applicants provide herewith an amendment to claim 1.

According to the present specification, a bright state can be achieved by altering the substantially circularly polarized incident light into a linearly polarized light on the reflective film 7 with optical retardation compensator plates 8 and 9 that are configured so as to fulfill Equation (1) (see the attached illustration, Fig. B). Specifically, the vibration direction of an opto-electric field generated by the linearly polarized light is arbitrary in the plane that contains the light reflective film 7. In other words, the light on the reflective substrate is linearly polarized because of the optical property of the liquid crystal layer. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the added language was supported by the specification as filed and respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, enablement

Claims 1-3, 6, and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. In particular, the Office Action alleges that the added language “to perform white display, a flat surface of the first substrate linearly polarizes reflected light in arbitrary directions in a visible wavelength range” was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the invention. Further, the Office Action states that Applicant has not disclosed how to create a reflective substrate that linearly polarizes reflected light in arbitrary directions.

Applicants submit that the Office Action misinterprets the claimed invention and that the added language is enabled by the description in the specification at page 43, first full paragraph. The argument is comparable to that for the written description rejection. As stated above, in order to clarify the claim in light of the apparent misunderstanding, Applicants provide herewith an amendment to claim 1.

According to the present specification, a bright state can be achieved by altering the substantially circularly polarized incident light into a linearly polarized light on the reflective film 7 with optical retardation compensator plates 8 and 9 that are configured so as to fulfill Equation (1). Specifically, the vibration direction of an opto-electric field generated by the linearly polarized light is arbitrary in the plane that contains the light reflective film 7. In other words, the light on the reflective substrate is linearly polarized because of the optical property of the liquid crystal layer. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the added language was enabled by the description in the specification as filed and respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact (Reg. No.) at the telephone number of (703) 205-8000, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit

Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully Submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By: 

Terrell C. Birch

Reg. No. 19,382

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, VA 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

TCB/RWD/kss